

# National Program of Cancer Registries (NPCR)

## LINK PLUS



### Registry Plus Software for Cancer Registries



Cancer Registries  
Registry Plus™ Software

#### Brief Description

- Link Plus was written as a linkage tool for cancer registries. Link Plus is a stand-alone Windows application for probabilistic record linkages
- Incorporates scientifically valid algorithms in a user-friendly package for both the novice and the expert
- Can be used to link a cancer registry file to external files, or to detect duplicates in the cancer registry database
- Accepts files in four formats: CRS Plus database, NAACCR record layout, delimited files, or fixed-width files
- No theoretical or practical barriers exist to prevent using the program with data other than cancer registry data

#### Capabilities and features

- An easy-to-use, stand-alone, Microsoft Windows-based application
- Supports NAACCR file, fixed width file, delimited file, and CRS Plus database
- Computes probabilistic record linkage scores based on the theoretical framework developed by Fellegi and Sunter
- Can handle missing values of matching variables
- Facilitates a simple and efficient blocking
- Generates match and non-match reports that are tab delimited text files that can be imported into Excel for review
- Provides the multiple comparison methods

#### Updates

- Updated to support NAACCR version 10.1 record layout
- Expanded the list of default variables for NAACCR record layout
- Provided functionalities to perform clerical review
- Allows creating a merged file from two linked data files
- Added Edit Distance functions such as Levenshtein distance to measure the similarity between two strings
- Implemented NYSIIS algorithm
- Option to run Link Plus in batch mode
- This version of Link Plus is designed to automatically upgrade older application versions while preserving configuration settings

#### Future Plans

- Add address comparator
- A professional usability application evaluation will be done, and the user interface will be enhanced to maximize usability